

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment filed on March 05, 2008 has been entered. Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 10 and 14 are cancelled by the applicant.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given by applicant's representative on May 23, 2008. The applicant has agreed to authorize examiner to amend claims 1, 8, 9, 13 and cancel claims 10 and 14.

CLAIMS:

3. Please cancel claims 10 and 14:

4. Please replace claim 1 as follows:

1. A firewall, comprising:

a first port configured for communication with a first device within a first network;

a second port configured for communication with a second device within the first network;

a third port configured for communication between the first network and a second network; and

a processor configured to:

determine that a first portion of the incoming packets should be bridged, the first portion having a first source address and a first destination address within the first network, wherein the step of determining that the first portion should be bridged comprises performing a bridge lookup based upon media access control address information of the incoming packets;

apply a first screening process to the first portion;

determine that a second portion of the incoming packets should be routed, the second portion having a second source address or a second destination address outside the first network; and

apply a second screening process to the second portion.

5. Please replace claim 8 as follows:

8. A firewall, comprising:

means for receiving first packets and second packets at a first device;

means for determining, at the first device, that the first packets should be bridged, the first packets having a first source address and a first destination address within the first network, wherein the means determines that the first packets should be bridged by performing a bridge lookup based upon media access control address information of the first packets;

means for applying a first screening process to the first packets at the first device;

means for determining, at the first device, that the second packets should be routed; and

means for applying a second screening process to the second packets at the first device.

6. Please replace claim 9 as follows:

9. A method of implementing a firewall, comprising:

receiving first packets and second packets at a first device;

determining, at the first device, that the first packets should be bridged, the first packets having a first source address and a first destination address within the first network, wherein determining that the first packets should be bridged comprises performing a bridge lookup based upon media access control address information of the first packets;

applying a first screening process to the first packets at the first device;

determining, at the first device, that the second packets should be routed; and

applying a second screening process to the second packets at the first device.

7. Please replace claim 13 as follows

13. A computer program embodied in a machine-readable medium, the computer program comprising instructions for controlling a firewall to perform the following steps:

receive first packets and second packets at a first device;

determine, at the first device, that the first packets should be bridged, the first packets having a first source address and a first destination address within the first network;

perform a bridge lookup based upon media access control address information of the first packets;

apply a first screening process to the first packets at the first device;

determine, at the first device, that the second packets should be routed; and

apply a second screening process to the second packets at the first device.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 1-9, 11-13, and 15-22 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: see interview summary.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

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preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanhnga (Tanya) Truong whose telephone number is 571-272-3858.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The central fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

/Thanhnga B. Truong/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2135

TBT

May 23, 2008